

# The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



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Mr. Eric Shaw, Director  
DC Office of Planning  
1100 4th Street, S.W., Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Shaw,

A year ago, you were the guest speaker at the Committee of 100 on the Federal City membership meeting. You focused on the Office of Planning's (OP) approach to the DC Comprehensive Plan amendment process and urged the Committee of 100 as a prime stakeholder to be candid and quick to report process failings -there is a significant problem to report.

OP's primary mission is to plan the development of the city. It develops data and interprets data from other sources, and is fundamentally responsible for translating data into predictions about how the city could grow and how to achieve our multiplicity of goals. For some unknown reason, at the most critical time for sharing the data and OP's analysis and projections, OP has decided to keep this critical information to itself. You asked the entire DC population to participate in a very time consuming and difficult process of suggesting how to update Comprehensive Plan policies but without the benefit of OP's advice and guidance on how the context for the plan may change. It's like sending someone on a trip to an unknown destination without a map.

There is no conceivable reason why the Office of Planning can't perform its primary function during the most critical planning period for the city. When you announced that the Framework Element would be rewritten and that the maps could change, the Committee of 100 urged you in September 2016 to circulate the redrafted Framework Element well before the opening of the amendment process. The Committee stated that residents needed to know OP's synthesis of growth forecasts and projections, OP's narrative of where and how much the city will grow, and OP's targets for General Policy Map use changes and Future Land Use Map density changes. OP's noticed intention to rewrite the Framework Element signaled that no one could rely on the existing Framework Element as the

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foundation for any suggested policy changes. You essentially asked every resident to complete a task and then tied their hands in completing that task.

For a year, the Committee of 100 has asked for the redrafted Framework Element, or at least a reliable time when it would be released. The Office of Planning has had the public's submitted amendments now for two months and is reportedly planning to issue a report on which amendments OP will present to Council and which your agency will not support. This unique and unsupportable process has permitted OP to judge citizen's policy preferences before sharing the information that is influencing your decisions. This is absurdly backwards. It makes no sense and is neither fair nor transparent.

The Committee of 100 calls on the Office of Planning to release the draft Framework Element immediately.

Sincerely,



Stephen A. Hansen, Chair

cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC  
Honorable Phil Mendelson  
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